

Air Training Corps

- 25th Squadron

What a marvellous and exciting year it's been! As usual the squadron has engaged in a number of activities and all with the accent towards adventure. From gliding to camps and shooting; there has been a wide enough range of activities to satisfy even the most enthusiastic cadet! Mr. Penn, our commanding officer, was posted to a Coventry Squadron. We had an informal dinner to mark our appreciation for everything he has done for us. Mr. Penn has been with the squadron since it was first formed five years ago and his enthusiasm was the mainstay behind the trials of those early years.

The new C.O. is Flying Officer Hall from another Coventry Squadron and within the short time he has been with us he has shown that we can expect to do more and more in terms of adventure-training, camps, flying, and so on. Of course, the Air Training Corps involves some hard work. Mr. Muhamed (shortly to become a father!) has trained and striven to make us worthy enough to drill on an RAF Station when we visit one.

Among other arrivals and departures, we welcomed two new civilian instructors, Mr. Watson (Snr) and Mr. Watson (jnr), who by the way, are not related. By their zeal they have respectively turned the woodwork and aircraft modelling groups into thriving clubs. Sadly, Pilot Officer John Church left us for a posting to our old rivals, Southam, and our best wishes go with him also.

The current squadron strength is approximately twenty cadets ranging from the 'C' Forms to the 'E' Forms. A small, stable number means more activities as shown by the trip to Royal Air Force, Bicester for a weekend, where the cadets in conjunction with the Keresley (Coventry) Squadron, enjoyed shooting, a night-exercise, initiative tests and an afternoon as guests of the Royal Air Force Gliding Soaring Association. The cadets were able to fly in a normal sailplane or a motor glider and all for the princely sum of 20p-40p. It should be noted that the air cadet who operated the winch couldn't help winding the parachute in with the cable and stopping flying for 35 minutes!

Still on gliding, Cpls. Terron, D.A. and Cowan and Cadet Gary Peacock, all obtained solo pilots' wings and promptly refused to talk to non-solo cadets for several days. The other cadets managed to get several Air Experience Flights although two youngsters vowed never to fly again after a bumpy flight! Flying at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire regrettably was cancelled due to bad weather but an enjoyable soccer match was played, although four players were sent off! The Squadron also visited the RAF Museum at Hendon. Cpl. Stephen Terron the S.N.C.O. and his assistant Acting Cpl. Mike Evans, have spent a great deal of time arranging activities for the cadets and on behalf of the other cadets, I'd like to thank them both for all their hard work. So, all in all, a very busy and successful year for the Squadron. After the Cadet Examinations in May it is hoped to finish off the new cadets' room and generally brighten up the Headquarters building. Now that the squadron has settled down once more, why not come along to a parade? We'd be very happy to see you.

DAVID TERRON L.VI
(Fisher)